

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (previously canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled) A method for transmitting a message to a recipient, the recipient is associated with an alias identifier, the alias identifier is associated with at least one permission criteria, the alias identifier is further associated with at least one communication device, comprising:

- selecting a user alias;
- verifying that the selected alias is for a registered recipient;
- compiling a message for the recipient;
- checking the message length of the complied message;
- checking the permission criteria associated with the alias;
- sending the message to a recipient device associated with the selected alias; and
- notifying the sender of the receipt of the message.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A method for transmitting a message to a recipient, the recipient associated with at least one identifier, the identifier is associated with at least one communication device, comprising:

- receiving a message;
- receiving a recipient identifier for said message, the recipient alias associated with at least one communication device;
- verifying that the recipient identifier is available to the system;
- verifying that the sender has permission to send a message to the identifier by referring to the permission associated with the identifier; [and]
- transmitting the message to at least one communication device associated with the identifier[.];

retrieving a maximum message length for a communication device associated with the identifier;
determining the message length of the received message;
comparing the message length of the received message to the maximum message length; and
modifying the transmission of the message when the message length of the received message exceeds the maximum message length by sending the message in more than one transmission.

Claim 13 (canceled) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

retrieving a maximum message length for a communication device associated with the identifier;
determining the message length of the received message;
comparing the message length of the received message to the maximum message length; and
modifying the transmission of the message when the message length of the received message exceeds the maximum message length.

Claim 14 (canceled) The method of Claim 13, wherein said modifying comprises sending the message in more than one transmission.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A method for transmitting a message to a recipient, the recipient associated with at least one identifier, the identifier is associated with at least one communication device, comprising:

receiving a message;
receiving a recipient identifier for said message, the recipient alias associated with at least one communication device;
verifying that the recipient identifier is available to the system;
verifying that the sender has permission to send a message to the identifier by referring to the permission associated with the identifier;
transmitting the message to at least one communication device associated with the identifier;

retrieving a maximum message length for a communication device associated with the identifier;
determining the message length of the received message;
comparing the message length of the received message to the maximum message length; and
modifying the transmission of the message when the message length of the received message exceeds the maximum message length by ~~The method of Claim 13, wherein said modifying comprises sending a concatenated message.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended) A method for transmitting a message to a recipient, the recipient associated with at least one identifier, the identifier is associated with at least one communication device, comprising:

receiving a message;
receiving a recipient identifier for said message, the recipient alias associated with at least one communication device;
verifying that the recipient identifier is available to the system;
verifying that the sender has permission to send a message to the identifier by referring to the permission associated with the identifier;
transmitting the message to at least one communication device associated with the identifier;
retrieving a maximum message length for a communication device associated with the identifier;
determining the message length of the received message;
comparing the message length of the received message to the maximum message length; and
modifying the transmission of the message when the message length of the received message exceeds the maximum message length by sending a concatenated message and ~~The method of Claim 15, wherein said modifying further comprises adding a header to the message.~~

Claims 17-28 (Cancelled)

Claim 29 (currently amended) A method for facilitating the transmission of a message to a user of a message system, the message system employing aliases to define device sets associated with users of the message system, the message system transmitting a message to user devices associated with an alias when the alias is the intended recipient of the message, the method comprising:

providing service providers access to database translation records, a database translation record includes at least a static user device identifier and a corresponding user alias, the user alias identifier is used to replace at least one static user device identifier as the intended recipient of a message which was received by a service provider;

making a communication link available for transmitting messages from the service provider to the message system;

receiving messages from the service provider, the messages including a user alias as the intended recipient of the message instead of the original static user device identifier provided as the intended recipient of the message;

forwarding the message to the users of the message system by reference to device sets associated with the user alias provided as the intended recipient of the message.

Claims 30-31 (cancelled)

Claim 32 (cancelled) A method for generating a valid alias, comprising:

storing attributes, the attributes corresponding to user entered information;

receiving user information for a number of attributes from said stored attributes;

and generating an alias by employing said user information, wherein said number of attributes are selected so as to result in a valid alias generated.